

In the Claims

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method for seeking access to a first server, the method comprising:

determining that a client seeking access to the first server is not authenticated by an authentication server;

communicating a request for login information to be returned to the authentication server from the client;

receiving the login information at the authentication server from the client; authenticating the client by comparing the login information with

authentication information maintained by the authentication server; and when the login information matches the authentication information,

generating a user authentication indicator at the authentication server; and

sending the user authentication indicator to the first server[.]; and sending user profile information associated with the client login information to the first server.

2. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the user authentication indicator does not contain reference to the login information.

3. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the user authentication indicator includes a time stamp indicating the last time the client's login information was refreshed.

4. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the user authentication indicator includes a time stamp indicating the last time the client sent login information.

5. **(Currently Amended)** One or more computer-readable memories ~~media containing a computer program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim 1 having stored thereon a plurality of instructions that when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform the following steps:~~

determining that a client seeking access to the first server is not authenticated by an authentication server;

communicating a request for login information to be returned to the authentication server from the client;

receiving the login information at the authentication server from the client; authenticating the client by comparing the login information with authentication information maintained by the authentication server;

when the login information matches the authentication information, generating a user authentication indicator at the authentication server;

sending the user authentication indicator to the first server; and

sending user profile information associated with the client login information to the first server.

6. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the login information is used to authenticate the client with respect to the authentication server but does not have to be transmitted to the first server to authenticate the client with respect to the first server.

7. **(Currently Amended)** A method of authenticating a client with respect to a network server to which the client is seeking access, the method comprising:

receiving a request at an authentication server from the network server to authenticate a client;

determining that the client is not authenticated by the authentication server;

receiving login information at the authentication server from the client;

authenticating the client at the authentication server by comparing the received login information with authentication information maintained by the authentication server; and

determining that the received login information matches the authentication information, whereupon an authentication indication is generated at the authentication server and user profile information associated with the client login information and are communicated to the network server.

8. **(Original)** The method of claim 7 wherein the authentication indication further includes:

a first time stamp indicating the last time the client's login information was refreshed; and

a second time stamp indicating the last time the client sent login information.

9. **(Original)** The method of claim 7 wherein the network server includes a web server coupled to the Internet.

10. **(Original)** The method of claim 7 wherein the received login information includes a login ID and a password.

11. **(Original)** The method of claim 7 further comprising concealing the received login information from the network server.

12. **(Original)** The method of claim 7 further comprising concealing the authentication information from the network server.

13. **(Original)** The method of claim 7 wherein the client has registered with the authentication server prior to receiving the request.

14. **(Original)** The method of claim 7 wherein the network server has registered with the authentication server prior to receiving the request.

15. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 7, wherein the login information is used to authenticate the client with respect to the authentication server but does not have to be transmitted to the first network server to authenticate the client with respect to the network server.

16. **(Original)** The method of claim 7, wherein the authentication indication acts as a client authentication indicator.

17. **(Currently Amended)** One or more computer-readable media having stored thereon a plurality of instructions that when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform the following steps:

receiving a request to authenticate a user seeking access to a network server;

determining that the user is not authenticated by an authentication server;

receiving login information at the authentication server from the user;

authenticating the user at the authentication server by comparing the received login information with authentication information maintained by the authentication server;

when the received login information matches the authentication information,

generating a user authentication indicator at the authentication server; ~~and~~
sending the user authentication indicator to the network server[.];~~and~~
sending user profile information associated with the client login
information to the network server.

18. **(Original)** The computer-readable media of claim 17 wherein the received login information includes a login ID and a password.

19. **(Currently Amended)** The computer-readable media of claim 17, wherein the login information is used to authenticate the client with respect to the authentication server but does not have to be transmitted to the ~~first~~ network server to authenticate the client with respect to the network server.

20. **(Currently Amended)** A system comprising:

a network server to receive a request by ~~the~~ a client to gain access to the network server,

the network server to transmit a request to the authentication server for the authentication server to authenticate the client, wherein the request includes the client's login information;

an authentication server to determine that the client is authenticated with respect to the authentication server,

the authentication server to transmit a ~~user~~ client authentication indicator to the network server, wherein the client authentication indicator to indicate whether the client is authenticated; and

whereby the network server is to grant access to the client at the network server and wherein the network server is to receive user profile information associated with the client login information when the client authentication indicator determines that the client is authenticated at the authentication server.

21. **(Original)** The system of claim 20 wherein the network server is to deny access to the client if the user authentication indicator indicates that the client is not authenticated.

22. **(Original)** The system of claim 20 wherein the user authentication indicator includes a first time stamp indicating the last time the client's login information was refreshed.

23. **(Original)** The system of claim 20 wherein the user authentication indicator includes a second time stamp indicating the last time the client physically entered their login information.